

TRURO CATHEDRAL PAST CASES REVIEW 2 (PCR2)

LOCAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Introduction to PCR2 & headline data

The Past Case Review 2 (PCR2) process is an independent review that is being carried out in every diocese and church institution. The aim of the review is to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled, and to provide recommendations to the Church of England that will lead to improvements in its response to allegations of abuse and in its overall safeguarding working practices; thereby ensuring a safer environment for all.

The Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral are two separate legal entities. Regarding safeguarding, they work in partnership through a service level agreement to implement, monitor and improve practice. The PCR2 for both diocese and cathedral were conducted as a single exercise, with separate, but linked findings and recommendations.

This local executive summary relates to the PCR2 review for Truro Cathedral, which was undertaken from late January 2020 with completion February 2021.

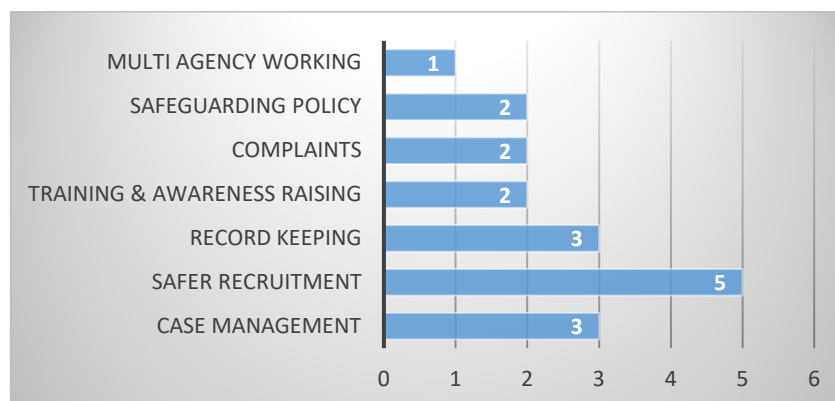
During the course of the PCR2 review 432 files were reviewed and 3 new safeguarding cases were identified.

Local themes

The independent reviewers found evidence of good practice in liaison with; the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA), the School for Choristers and in working multi-agency bodies. The safeguarding knowledge of Cathedral Clergy and Staff and their consideration of the impact on staff was also noted as demonstrating good practice.

In addition to identifying cases where it was considered different or further action may be required, the reviewers made recommendations about safeguarding practice (support, guidance and/or training).

Those recommendations fit into the following 7 themes.



In October 2021 a review of one of the cases dealt with by the reviewers identified additional areas for consideration. The case was reviewed by the National Safeguarding Team and subsequently the Bishop of Truro launched a wider review (known as a Visitation) into matters of governance, policy and procedures at the cathedral, which includes safeguarding.

Implementation of Local Recommendations

During 2021 a sub group of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP) was put in place to jointly review the PCR2 recommendations for the Diocese of Truro and Truro Cathedral. The sub group included representatives from the Cathedral, the Diocese, parishes and our Survivor Advocate.

We have identified 18 key actions that are either solely for the Cathedral or shared with our partners at the Diocese of Truro, all of which have been prioritised. Work between the cathedral team and the Cathedral Safeguarding Office (provided through a SLA with the diocese) has already addressed a number of these and Improvements that have already been put in place include:

- a complaints policy, with safeguarding pathway has been created and awaits approval by Chapter.
- raised awareness of domestic abuse, through safeguarding briefings, the requirement for all trained to level 2 (leadership) to undertake specific training by the end of December 2022, and the provision of a staff domestic abuse policy awaiting approval by Chapter. To date 12 Cathedral staff and volunteers have undertaken the domestic abuse training.
- safeguarding cases are now recorded in the PAMIS case management system. Joint training is in place for cathedral and diocesan staff on the system.

We have reviewed all of those cases where it was considered different or further action may be required and this was reported to DSAP in June 2022.

Survivor Strategy

Working in partnership with the Diocese of Truro we adopted “safeguarding: caring for people who have experienced abuse” in order to make sure that people who are in need of help are able to access it. The PCR2 Reference Group were responsible for monitoring the implementation of the strategy throughout PCR2.

We continue to work with our partners, to maintain a focus on listening and learning from survivors. Our survivor advocate continues to provide expertise and guidance and is now an active member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP).

We are putting in a programme of work where we are engaging with survivors, for example working with people who, during COVID19 lock-down, have disclosed incidents of historical abuse outside the cathedral context. We work with external agencies to provide support if required.

Role of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Alongside the bishop, the independent chair of the DSAP was responsible for agreeing the implementation plan for PCR and ensuring that a PCR reference group was in place to. This work was undertaken collaboratively between cathedral and diocese with professional advice provided through our partnership agreement.

- ensure robust risk management
- provide dispute resolution when there are differing professional opinions between the DSA and the Independent reviewer
- ensure that the right care and support is in place for anyone that is impacted upon by the undertaking of this review
- review the recommendations from the DSA regarding the exemption of a proportion of previously reviewed cases/files and ensure that agreement to seek exemptions is unanimous

In order to provide independent scrutiny and decision making the DSAP received progress reports throughout the PCR2 process.